



Naval Medical Research and Development

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Combat Artist Documents Navy Medicine Research and Development Activities at NAMRU-SA

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Story from NAMRU-SA Public Affairs



Artist Morgan Wilbur (left) from Naval History and Heritage Command photographs Navy researchers in the Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio labs Sept 13 as reference for a series of oil paintings he will create to document their work. (Photo courtesy of NAMRU-SA Public Affairs)

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio (NAMRU-SA), located on the San Antonio Military Medical Center campus, Joint Base Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is the subject of the Naval History and Heritage Command's (NHHC) artist, Morgan Wilbur, who visited the lab to document current biomedical research activities, Sept. 13-16.

NHHC manages the official history program of the United States Navy. Their mission is to collect, preserve, protect, present, and make relevant the artifacts, art, and documents that best capture the Navy's history and heritage.

Wilbur is a combat artist in the NHHC Art Collection Branch. The Navy Art Collection collects, documents and exhibits art significant to the history of the Navy. He observed, sketched and

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photographed NAMRU-SA research scientists and biomedical engineers at work in their labs to later create original oil paintings.

“Once the project is completed here at NAMRU-SA, the paintings become part of the Navy Art Collection and are used to tell the Navy’s story about some of the great work going on in Navy Medical research here in San Antonio,” said NAMRU-SA Commanding Officer Capt. Elizabeth Montcalm Smith. “We are privileged to have him here to capture our research in art and history.”

Battlefield injuries often present special challenges to the healing process and NAMRU-SA’s mission is to conduct medical, craniofacial, and biomedical research, which focuses on ways to enhance the health, safety, performance, and operational readiness of Navy and Marine Corps personnel and addresses the emergent medical and oral/facial problems in routine and combat operations.

Mr. Wilbur has traveled overseas to observe Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with trips to Iraq in 2003, 2005 and 2006. His paintings are represented in several collections including the U.S. Navy Art Collection; the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of Naval Aviation and he has completed three paintings for the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration. Wilbur has received numerous merit and excellence awards for his paintings.

NAMRU-SA serves as one of the leading research and development laboratories of the U.S. Navy under the Department of Defense and is one of eight subordinate research commands in the global network of laboratories operating under the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), Silver Spring, Maryland.

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